

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTIES

HELD ON 10TH JUNE 1968

Mr. Dominic Donnelly, Chairman of The Irish Centre presided, and opened the Meeting by extending a cordial welcome to the Right Hon. Lord Longford, President of The Irish Centre, and to Mr. Tadhg Feehan, who represented the Irish Ambassador. Mr. Donnelly apologised for the meeting being held so late in the year due to circumstances beyond control, and mainly due to illness. He then read the Notice convening the Meeting.

The attendance included Councillor L.P. O'Connor and Father T. McNamara, Vice-Presidents of The Irish Centre; the members of the out-going committee including Canon Groves, Father Woods and Father Mulvehill; representatives of The National University of Ireland Club; The G.A.A.; Mr. T. Feehan representing the Irish Ambassador; and representatives of the majority of the County Associations and Irish organisations.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Fr. Hackett then rose to read the Annual Report and Financial Report, apologising for his ill-health being the cause of the lateness of the meeting and saying we would try to hold this meeting in March for the future. In commenting on the Annual Report Fr. Hackett paid tribute to the voluntary workers of The Irish Centre Social Club who run our Bingo Sessions three nights a week in their own free time, and he thanked them. He also paid tribute to Dr. L. Morton, saying he attends Tuesday after Tuesday and any time of the day or night. Proceeding to the Financial Report Fr. Hackett, in elaborating the accounts said it was more luck than design that 1967 was successful financially, but there was no guarantee 1968 would be the same, as what The Irish Centre lacks most is an annual fixed income. Therefore, if The Irish Centre is to have the success in 1968, we need the efforts and work of every organisation to lend a hand to this end.

Referring to the donations received, he thanked particularly the Borough of Camden, whose regular donation comes in annually. Every Borough in London receives a letter from Fr. Hackett asking for a grant, and he appealed for anyone who could enlist the aid of a Councillor in any of these Boroughs to support his request. Fr. Hackett thanked all donors and subscribers including "The Irish Times" advertisement which had inspired an anonymous donation of \$10,000; His Eminence Cardinal Heenan for £1,000; and Mr. A. McCarthy of New York, for £1,580, together with all patrons, benefactors, and especially the Organisations. He also thanked Mr. P.J. Keegan; our Auditors Messrs. C.F. Burton & Co. (represented by Mr. T. Brennan), and the Administrative Committee. Finally, he thanked Lord Longford for honouring us with his presence, and everyone for their help in 1968.

In conclusion, Fr. Hackett honoured the memory of the late John Vaughan, R.I.P., for whom the Annual Mass had just been celebrated.

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Cllr. L.P. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. G. O'Flynn, and the adoption of the Financial Report was proposed by Mr. John Brannagan and seconded by Mr. R. Graham. Both were unanimously accepted.

APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION:

The President announced the following:-

- (a) Cardinal Heenan had appointed Father P. Hackett, O.M.I., as Chaplain for the coming year, and Canon Groves to continue as Westminster Diocesan Representative for the coming year, on the Administrative Committee.
- (b) Archbishop Cowderoy had appointed Father Ambrose Woods to continue as Southwark Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee.
- (c) Bishop Wall had appointed Father Anthony Mulvehill to continue as Brentwood Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee.

Under Rule 6 (ii) of the Constitution, the following were appointed to the Administrative Committee:-

Mr. D. Donnelly, Mr. J. Nee, Mr. L. Arnold, Dr. L. Morton.

Under Rule 6 (i) of the Constitution, the 7 outgoing officers of the Administrative Committee were re-appointed as follows:-

Mr. M. Casey,	Mr. J. Conway,	Cllr. L.P. O'Connor
Mr. G. O'Flynn,	Mr. T. O'Gorman,	Mr. B. Duggan
	Mr. R. Graham	

Owing to the death of the late John Vaughan, a vacancy occurs on the Committee, and Mr. Martin Moroney, Chairman of the Clare Association in London, was proposed, seconded and appointed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Messrs. C.F. Burton & Company were appointed Auditors for the coming year, and Mr. P.J. Keegan was appointed Honorary Auditor. *accountant*

Mr. Tadgh Feehan then rose to congratulate the Administrative Committee and Chaplains on their work, and he asked Lord Longford to accept the thanks of the Ambassador for all they were doing. He wished Fr. Hackett and The Centre every success in all departments and organisations, and said he was sure it would be an even greater success in the future.

Fr. Hackett, in reply, said he had deliberately left out any reference to the new building in his report, but he pointed out that in the financial report it was evident that there were additional costs in this, due to the fact that it was being done in two halves.

Mr. L. Arnold, Hon. Legal Adviser to the Administrative Committee moved a vote of thanks to Lord Longford for his great service to the Centre as its President. Replying to this, the President, Lord Longford, said he would not repeat the tributes so well paid by Fr. Hackett, but nevertheless he had to pay one tribute and that was the tremendous regard felt for Fr. Hackett. He also wanted to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, Mr. D. Donnelly. There was nothing new to say after all these years except that it was evident that the work of the Centre is becoming more sophisticated since it first began. He praised the work of the Centre; of Irish men and women in this country, and everywhere, mentioning particularly Senator Robert Kennedy, R.I.P., and concluded in asking to continue as President of The Irish Centre.

As there was no further business, the Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Cardinal, and also to Mr. Feehan and the Irish Ambassador, and to Fr. McNamara for coming.